

FACT SHEET

East Fork Fire Ouray Ranger District July 1, 2013 8:00 a.m.



Information Officers: Ted Pettis, Rick Barton, Lora Schmillen, Megan Mast
Information Center 970-240-2049
Information Center Hours 7am-9pm

Incident: This wildland fire started on 6/15/2013; cause was lightning.
Location: 30 miles southeast of Montrose, CO.
Jurisdiction: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forests
Cooperating Agencies: BLM, Gunnison County, Montrose County
Incident Commander: Rick Kusicko, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the Columbine Middle School in Montrose.

Current Size: 447 acres

Containment: 15%

Management Strategy: Full suppression

Structures Threatened: 20 residences, 15 commercial properties, and 5 outbuildings

Structures Lost: none

Status: The fire has been light to moderately active; burning in spruce/fir fuels with creeping and single tree torching. Steep, rocky, inaccessible terrain (primarily below the Rim) with heavy dead/ down fuels that are extremely dry has made suppression efforts very difficult. The high elevation also affects crew and equipment efficiencies.

The Little Cimarron Creek Road and Road 864 are being heavily used by the fire crews for access to the fire. Some crews are staying in a 'spike camp' setup on the High Mesa. Road maintenance will be ongoing with road blading and dust abatement as needed. Structure protection measures have been completed and crews will continue to monitor and protect.

Yesterday's Activities: **Crews completed fireline construction around the large spot fire on the High Mesa and have started mop-up operations. The inaccessible areas are monitored visually by air and any flare-ups are being cooled off with helicopter water drops.** A Remote Automatic Weather Stations (Raws) has been installed on the High Mesa to improve local forecasting.

Current Resources: Five 20-person crews, nine engines, two dozers, three water tenders, and three helicopters. Total personnel: **287**.

Today's Activities: A 'Red Flag' warning has been issued by the National Weather Service for dry thunderstorm activity in our area. Super cell development is possible. Temperatures are predicted to be 75 degrees. Crews will be focusing on mop-up activities on the High Mesa portions of fire area.

Restrictions/Closures: The recent 'Closure Order' by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests has been revised starting June 29, 2013. The revision **opens** the

Big Cimarron Road #858 to the Silver Jack reservoir to the junction of Big Cimarron Road #863 and service road #858, the West Fork Road #860 south of Owl Creek Pass; and Road #868 from the Alpine Guard Station to the Big Blue trailhead #232. All the other prohibited uses of National Forest System lands (Restricted Area), roads and trails that access the East Fork Fire area are still in effect.

A road "Closure Order" for the BLM's adjacent spur roads has been issued. The closure includes the High Mesa Road (3001) and spur roads (3001a-i) off that road. It also includes the High Mesa Trail, and the Big Blue Ridge Road (3006) and the spur/branch roads (3006b-c) off that road. Please contact: Gunnison Field Office for more information at 970-642-4940.

On June 24, 2013, the Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions due to high fire danger and ongoing fire activity. The prohibitions relate to campfires and smoking on National Forest System lands in the area. In addition, a temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect surrounding the East Fork Fire area.

For more on the closures and restrictions please go to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug).

The Colorado Trail and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are closed from Stoney Pass to San Luis Peak due to fire activity on the Papoose Fire located in Mineral County.

For Wildfire information on how to protect your home and family go to: www.firewise.org

If anyone wants to help or thank firefighters, contributions can be made to: the National Wildland Firefighters Foundation which provides support for the families of injured firefighters:
www.wffoundation.org

For further Fire Information, visit: www.inciweb.org; Select "East Fork Fire"
East Fork Fire email address: coloradoeastforkfire@gmail.com

Or call the Forest fire hotline 970-874-6602.